P

Packagelist

Predict: Predict objects of type packagelist document DB2 packages.

Parameter

See the following:

- Dynamic parameter
- NATPARM
- Natural Configuration Utility
- Parameter file
- Parameter module
- Printer profile
- Profile
- Profile parameter
- Profile parameter hierarchy
- SYSPARM utility
- Session parameter
- Static parameter

Natural Remote Procedure Call: All Natural RPC parameters are documented in the environment- specific Operations documentation.
For mainframe Natural, these parameters are included in the NTRPC macro (static definition) or are defined with the profile parameter RPC (dynamic definition).

Parameter file

Mainframe: See Parameter Module.

Open Systems: By default, the parameter specifications in the parameter file NATPARM.SAG are used to determine the characteristics of your Natural environment. Natural cannot run without a parameter file. Initially the NATPARM parameter file contains the default values supplied by Software AG. If you want to use Natural with parameter values other than the system defaults, you can modify the default parameter file NATPARM.SAG and/or create your own parameter files using the Natural Configuration Utility. All parameter files must have names of 8 characters and the extension .SAG.

Parameter module

Open Systems: See Parameter file.

Mainframe: Contains all the profile parameter settings for Natural used to determine the characteristics of your Natural environment. Natural cannot run without a parameter module. The default parameter module supplied by Software AG is NATPARM which is delivered in source form. Natural parameter modules are load modules which must be assembled and linked. If you want to use Natural with parameter values other than the system defaults, you can modify NATPARM and/or create your own parameter modules.

Natural parameters are defined in the standard parameter module which is linked to the Natural nucleus. This module constitutes the bottom-most level of the Natural parameter hierarchy. In addition to the Natural standard parameter module, the Natural administrator can define any number of additional parameter modules. Additional parameter modules are stored in a TP or operating-system library and can be used as an alternative parameter module by the parameter PARM when Natural is started. For further information, see the topic Using Profile Parameters in your Natural Operations documentation.

Parent

Predict: Associations are used to document how Predict objects are related to other Predict objects. An association is established by linking objects to an object either as child or parent. For example, a database is the parent of a file, a file is the parent of a field.

Passive cross references

Windows - XRef GUI Client: The passive cross reference function shows which objects use the current object. For example, if you have a copycode you might want to know in which parts of your application it is included. Results are displayed in a tree view with the referenced ("used") object at the top. There are some types of objects which by default only have passive cross references, such as copycodes, DDMs and methods.

For further information, see the topic Cross References in the section Invoking XRef GUI Client in the Remote Development documentation.

Passive help

Predict: Passive help provides descriptive information on functions. Context-sensitive online help information can be displayed by entering a question mark in the Retrieval Type/Function field of a menu, or from the Help Main Menu.

PCB = program communication block

DL/I or IMS control block that describes an application program’s interface to a DL/I or IMS database or, additionally, for message processing and batch message processing programs, to the source and destination of messages. See also program specification block (PSB).*

PDA = parameter data area

A Natural object used to define fields that are passed as parameters to a subprogram, external subroutine or helproutine. See also Object Types.

Periodic group

Contains a series of elementary and/or multiple-value fields which occurs more than once. A periodic group can have up to 99 occurrences.

Physical file

Predict: See Master File.

Placeholder

Predict: When an object that is linked to another object is loaded/imported, and the referenced object is not loaded/imported and does not exist in the target environment, a placeholder is added in the target environment for the referenced object. The purpose of this placeholder is to reserve the object ID of the referenced object in the target environment so that the link in the old environment can be recreated in the new environment at a later time.

A placeholder contains the following information:

- object ID
- internal ID
- subtype (if applicable)
- transfer status placeholder

PLOG = Protection log

Adabas: A file that records before-and-after images of records and other elements when changes are made to an Adabas database. Used to recover the database (up to the last completed transaction or ET) after restart.

Plug-In Manager

Windows: The Natural Studio user interface is extensible by plug-ins. Plug-ins can be activated and deactivated with the Plug-In Manager. Part of the Natural Studio functionality itself is delivered in the form of plug-ins. A sample plug-in is delivered in source code in the library SYSEXPLG. For further information about Natural Studio Plug-ins and the Plug-In Manager, see the section Plug-In Manager in the Natural User's Guide.

Portable GPs

Open Systems: GPs which are cataloged with Natural Version 5 are now portable across any Natural-supported UNIX, OpenVMS and Windows platform. This means that GPs which are cataloged with Natural Version 5 are now executable with Natural Version 5 on these platforms without recompilation. This feature simplifies the deployment of applications across open systems (UNIX, OpenVMS and Windows) platforms. Command processor GPs operate as before. See also Generated Programs.

Predict

Software AG's open, operational data dictionary for fourth generation development with Natural. It is a central repository of application metadata and provides documentation and cross-reference features. Predict lets you automatically generate code from definitions, enhancing development and maintenance productivity.

Predict Coordinator

Predict: Utility that enables data exchange between different FDIC files and between Predict and Natural Engineering Workbench. The Coordinator uses its own FDIC file called the Coordinator FDIC which serves as temporary storage. The application that contains the Coordinator functions is located in the Natural library SYSDICBE.

Printer profile

Open Systems: Profile information for printers is specified in the following file, which initially contains the printing defaults supplied by Software AG: Software AG/Natural/Etc/natconf.cfg.

Process

An operating system process is an element of work that has its own memory space, code, data, and other operating-system resources and which consists of one or more threads.

Processing rule

A processing procedure defined for a map field which checks the content of the field and reacts depending on that content. The check can also include several fields. Processing rules can be stored centrally in Predict (free rules) and/or be permanently assigned to DDM fields (automatic rules).

Profile

Mainframe: Using the utility SYSPARM, you can specify a string of profile parameters and store it under a profile name. To use a profile, start NATURAL with the dynamic parameter PROFILE=*profile-name*. The string of parameters stored under that profile name is passed to NATURAL as dynamic parameters. A profile in this context means a string of profile parameters stored under a profile name.

Profile parameter

All Natural parameters which are defined in NATPARM (not, for example, driver or front-end parameters). The Natural profile parameters define various characteristics of the Natural environment. Only Natural Administrators are authorized to set all profile parameters.

The values for these parameters are taken from the following three sources:

- Runtime assignment of session parameters using the Natural SET GLOBALS statement or the GLOBALS system command (highest priority).
- Dynamic assignments which are valid for the current Natural session. These are made by specifying individual parameters and/or an alternative parameter file when starting Natural.
- Static assignments, which are specified in the Natural module/parameter file NATPARM (lowest priority). On the mainframe, this is the parameter module linked to the Natural nucleus. Under Open Systems, this is the parameter file NATPARM.SAG.

For further information, see your Installation and Operations documentation.

Profile parameter hierarchy

Natural profile parameters are set at different hierarchically organized levels as illustrated in the table below (priority from high to low).

During Session (highest priority)	Development Environment Settings Program/Statement Level Settings Session Parameter Settings Natural Security Definitions
Dynamic during Session Start	Dynamic Parameter Entry Predefined User Parameter Profiles Predefined Dynamic Parameter Sets
Static	Alternative Parameter Module Natural Standard Parameter Module

Program

Predict: A Predict object of type program documents data processing objects of different types and languages.

Progam-driven application

Applications in which programs control the portions of code that execute - not an event. Execution starts with the first line of executable code and follows a defined pathway through the application, calling additional programs as instructed in the predetermined sequence.

Property

Attributes of an object that can be accessed by clients. In Natural classes, property values of an object are stored in the object data area. Therefore, an object data variable must be assigned to each property. For further information, see Object Data Variable.

Property implementation

The object data variable that is assigned to a property. For further information, see Object Data Variable.

Protocol access layer

Coding of access calls to and from the communication protocol (at present TCP/IP) to and from client and server.

PSB = program specification block

DL/I or IMS control block that describes databases and logical message destinations available for an application program. A PSB consists of one or more program communication blocks (PCBs).*

PU = physical unit

*SNA:*In Systems Network Architecture (SNA), a physical unit identifies a network node that supports communication sessions between logical units (LUs).